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Preliminary Report

CIA Role as Angel U.S. Policy

CPYRGHT

President Johnson's special panel has found that the Central Intelligence Agency followed national policy in giving funds to student and other private groups, the White House disclosed yesterday.

Press Secretary George Christian said that the President agreed "with the conclusions in this preliminary report."

Undersecretary of State Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach, head of the three-man panel, said in a letter to Mr. Johnson that the policy had been established by the National Security Council from 1952 to 1954 and had been in effect under the last four U.S. Presidents.

The panel's preliminary report made these points:

✓ The CIA is "vitally important" to U.S. security and the current controversy over its secret financing of private organizations must not obscure its value to the United States.

✓ The CIA followed national policy and acted "with the approval of senior interdepartmental review committees, including the secretaries of State and Defense or their representatives."

✓ The CIA is "vitally important" to U.S. security and the current controversy over its secret financing of private organizations must not obscure its value to the United States.

✓ CIA financial support "enabled many far-sighted and courageous Americans to serve their country in times of challenge and danger to the United States and the free world."

Some congressmen have been critical of the inquiry ordered by Mr. Johnson, contending that a broader review — possibly a public one — should be made.

Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D., Wis.), said in a Senate speech that the United States might be veering toward what some legislators term "big brotherism" thru the clandestine activities of the CIA.

(UPD)